

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

On behalf of Kenosha Community Media, Inc. (KCM), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, I am filing comments in regard to MB Docket No. 15-149.

For 30 years, KCM and its predecessor, a Mayoral-appointed committee, have been custodians of a community television channel and community media center in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Thanks to Time Warner Cable, our organization uses about 1,700 square feet of the cable operator's Kenosha building for its operations at no charge, except for phone and Internet service. HVAC, electricity, and security are provided.

Over the past 30 years, Kenosha cable customers can easily find local programming next to the local broadcast stations. From 1985-1999, our channel number was 21. Since then, viewers with cable boxes and other digital devices can find us on channel 14. We've built a loyal following of viewers and producers of local programs.

Because of the dedication of our small staff (1 FTE and 1 PTE) and the commitment of our Board of Directors to serving Kenosha, our community media center is open six days a week for about 70 hours. Our cable television channel is on the air 24/7, bringing parades, concerts, festivals, church services, candidate forums and election coverage, programs about the great outdoors, cooking shows, and many more.

We are funded almost exclusively through a portion of the franchise fee paid by Time Warner to the City of Kenosha. The City provides about 10% of this fee to KCM. Due to a move within the State of Wisconsin to take franchise agreements out of the hands of municipalities, KCM no longer receives capital improvement funds from the cable operator. Until 2011, KCM had received about \$42,500 per year for CIP purposes.

KCM asks that you take into account its concerns when making decisions in regard to a cable merger.

- a. Will Charter Communications provide a free lease of space to KCM within the building it would occupy in Kenosha? To the best of my knowledge, Charter does not house any community media operations in its facilities in this country.
- b. Will Charter continue to park community programming beside local broadcast channel stations, just as Time Warner has done? KCM asks that Charter follow Time Warner's practice in this regard.
- c. Will Charter provide an HD channel for community programming? KCM is investing in technology for 2016 so citizens may create programs in HD. The public has come to expect high-definition images when watching television. Community channels should not be treated differently than other cable channels.
- d. Will Charter allow information about community programs to be shown on its electronic program guide?
- e. Will Charter ensure that channel reception is equivalent to reception provided for other local broadcast channels? KCM has had no issues with reception under Time Warner Cable. There is a concern that Charter will move community programming into the high 900s in its channel lineup and degrade the channel signal.

Community media centers like KCM and many others serve a vital role in the cities, towns and villages across this country. Just as our forefathers could address the masses in the public square, our community's brothers and sisters have the opportunity to keep information local. Community media does more than uphold the democratic process of giving the common man a voice in his or her community; it exists to educate through media literacy and through skill-building in today's technology. Those who cannot afford a college education can visit their community media center and receive hands-on training to build their skills in the field of technology.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bloner, Jr.', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

John Bloner, Jr.
Kenosha Community Media, Inc.